

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

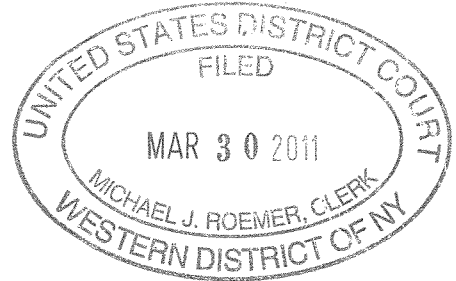
v.

10-CR-283

JASON HIRAM WATSON,

Defendant.

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**PLEA AGREEMENT**

The defendant, JASON HIRAM WATSON, and the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York (hereinafter "the government") hereby enter into a plea agreement with the terms and conditions as set out below.

**I. THE PLEA AND POSSIBLE SENTENCE**

1. The defendant agrees to plead guilty to count 2 of the Indictment charging a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2423(b) [interstate travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct], for which the maximum possible sentence is a term of imprisonment of 30 years, a fine of \$250,000, a mandatory \$100 special assessment and a term of supervised release of at least 5 years and up to life. The defendant understands that the penalties set forth in this paragraph are the maximum penalties that can be imposed by the Court at sentencing.

2. The defendant understands that, if it is determined that the defendant has violated any of the terms or conditions of supervised release, the defendant may be required to serve in prison all or part of the term of supervised release, up to two years, without credit for time previously served on supervised release, and if the defendant commits any criminal offense under Chapter 109A, 110 or 117, or Sections 1201 or 1591 of Title 18, United States Code, for which imprisonment for a term longer than 1 year can be imposed, the defendant shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years and up to life. As a consequence, in the event the defendant is sentenced to the maximum term of incarceration, a prison term imposed for a violation of supervised release may result in the defendant serving a sentence of imprisonment longer than the statutory maximum set forth in Paragraph 1 of this agreement.

3. The defendant acknowledges that pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2259(a), the Court must order restitution for the full amount of the victims' compensable losses as determined by the court. Defendant understands that defendant will not be entitled to withdraw the plea of guilty based upon any restitution amount ordered by the Court.

4. The defendant has been advised and understands that under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, the defendant must register and keep registration current in all of the following jurisdictions: where the defendant resides; where the defendant is employed; and where the defendant is a student. The defendant understands the requirements for registration include providing the defendant's name, residence address, and the names and addresses of any places where the defendant is or will be an employee or student, among other information. The defendant further understands that the requirement to keep the registration current includes informing at least one jurisdiction in which the defendant resides, is an employee, or is a student, not later than three (3) business days after, any change of the defendant's name, residence, employment, or student status. The defendant has been advised and understands that failure to comply with these obligations subjects the defendant to prosecution for failure to register under federal law, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2250, which is punishable by imprisonment, a fine, or both.

## II. ELEMENTS AND FACTUAL BASIS

5. The defendant understands the nature of the offense set forth in paragraph 1 of this agreement and understands that if this

case proceeded to trial, the government would be required to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the following elements of the crime:

- a. the defendant traveled in interstate or foreign commerce; and
- b. the defendant acted with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor.

#### FACTUAL BASIS

6. The defendant and the government agree to the following facts, which form the basis for the entry of the plea of guilty including relevant conduct:

- a. Between on or about January 1, 2009, and April 1, 2009, in the Western District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant, then 36 years old, communicated with Minor 1, a fifteen year old female, via telephone, text messaging, mail, and the Internet. The defendant knew Minor 1 to be fifteen years old.
- b. During these conversations, the defendant made arrangements to travel from his home in Illinois to the Buffalo, New York area to engage in sexual intercourse with Minor 1.
- c. On or about March 13, 2009, the defendant flew from Chicago, Illinois, to Buffalo, New York, and picked up Minor 1 from school. He then took Minor 1 to a hotel in Cheektowaga, New York, which is in the Western District of New York. The defendant and Minor 1 spent two nights at said hotel.
- d. Between on or about March 13, 2009 and March 16, 2009, the defendant engaged in sexual intercourse with Minor 1. It is a crime in New York State for

an adult to engage in sexual intercourse with a fifteen year old.

### III. SENTENCING GUIDELINES

7. The defendant understands that the Court must consider but is not bound by the Sentencing Guidelines (Sentencing Reform Act of 1984).

#### BASE OFFENSE LEVEL

8. The government and the defendant agree that Guidelines § 2G1.3(a)(4) applies to the offense of conviction and provides for a base offense level of 24.

#### SPECIFIC OFFENSE CHARACTERISTICS U.S.S.G. CHAPTER 2 ADJUSTMENTS

9. The government and the defendant agree that the following specific offense characteristics do apply:

- a. The two level increase pursuant to Guidelines § 2G1.3(b)(2)(B) (participant unduly influenced minor to engage in prohibited sexual conduct).
- b. The two level increase pursuant to Guidelines § 2G1.3(b)(3)(A) (offense involved use of a computer to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce minor to engage in prohibited sexual conduct).
- c. The two level increase pursuant to Guidelines § 2G1.3(b)(4)(A) (offense involved sexual contact).

#### ADJUSTED OFFENSE LEVEL

10. Based on the foregoing, it is the understanding of the government and the defendant that the adjusted offense level for the offense of conviction is 30.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

11. At sentencing, the government agrees not to oppose the recommendation that the Court apply the two (2) level downward adjustment of Guidelines § 3E1.1(a) (acceptance of responsibility) and further agrees to move the Court to apply the additional one (1) level downward adjustment of Guidelines § 3E1.1(b), which would result in a total offense level of 27.

#### CRIMINAL HISTORY CATEGORY

12. It is the understanding of the government and the defendant that the defendant's criminal history category is I. The defendant understands that if the defendant is sentenced for, or convicted of, any other charges prior to sentencing in this action the defendant's criminal history category may increase. The defendant understands that the defendant has no right to withdraw

the plea of guilty based on the Court's determination of the defendant's criminal history category.

GUIDELINES' APPLICATION, CALCULATIONS AND IMPACT

13. It is the understanding of the government and the defendant that, with a total offense level of 27 and criminal history category of I, and taking into account the applicable statutory minimum penalties, the defendant's sentencing range would be a term of imprisonment of 70 to 87 months, a fine of \$12,500 to \$125,000, and a period of supervised release of at least 5 years and up to life. Notwithstanding this, the defendant understands that at sentencing the defendant is subject to the minimum and maximum penalties set forth in paragraph 1 of this agreement.

14. The government and the defendant agree to the Sentencing Guidelines calculations set forth in this agreement and neither party will advocate or recommend the application of any other Guideline, or move for any Guidelines departure, or move for or recommend a sentence outside the Guidelines, except as specifically set forth in this agreement. A breach of this paragraph by one party will relieve the other party of any agreements made in this plea agreement with respect to sentencing motions and recommendations. A breach of this paragraph by the defendant shall

also relieve the government from any agreements to dismiss or not pursue additional charges.

15. The defendant understands that the Court is not bound to accept any Sentencing Guidelines calculations set forth in this agreement and the defendant will not be entitled to withdraw the plea of guilty based on the sentence imposed by the Court.

#### IV. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

16. In the event the defendant's plea of guilty is withdrawn, or conviction vacated, either pre- or post-sentence, by way of appeal, motion, post-conviction proceeding, collateral attack or otherwise, the defendant agrees that any charges dismissed pursuant to this agreement shall be automatically reinstated upon motion of the government and further agrees not to assert the statute of limitations as a defense to any other criminal offense involving or related to interstate travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct which is not time barred as of the date of this agreement. This waiver shall be effective for a period of six months following the date upon which the withdrawal of the guilty plea or vacating of the conviction becomes final.



V. GOVERNMENT RIGHTS AND RESERVATIONS

17. At sentencing, the government agrees to take no position as to the specific sentence within the Guidelines range determined by the Court.

18. The defendant understands that the government has reserved the right to:

- a. provide to the Probation Office and the Court all the information and evidence in its possession that the government deems relevant concerning the defendant's background, character and involvement in the offense charged, the circumstances surrounding the charge and the defendant's criminal history;
- b. respond at sentencing to any statements made by the defendant or on the defendant's behalf that are inconsistent with the information and evidence available to the government; and
- c. modify its position with respect to any sentencing recommendation or sentencing factor under the Guidelines including criminal history category, in the event that subsequent to this agreement the government receives previously unknown information regarding the recommendation or factor.

19. At sentencing, the government will move to dismiss the open counts of the Indictment pending against the defendant.

20. The defendant agrees that any financial records and information provided by the defendant to the Probation Office, before or after sentencing, may be disclosed to the United States Attorney's Office for use in the collection of any unpaid financial obligation.

#### VI. APPEAL RIGHTS

21. The defendant understands that Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 affords a defendant a limited right to appeal the sentence imposed. The defendant, however, knowingly waives the right to appeal and collaterally attack any component of a sentence imposed by the Court which falls within or is less than the sentencing range for imprisonment, a fine and supervised release set forth in Section III, ¶ 13, above, notwithstanding the manner in which the Court determines the sentence. In the event of an appeal of the defendant's sentence by the government, the defendant reserves the right to argue the correctness of the defendant's sentence.

22. The defendant understands that by agreeing to not collaterally attack the sentence, the defendant is waiving the right to challenge the sentence in the event that in the future the defendant becomes aware of previously unknown facts or a change in

the law which the defendant believes would justify a decrease in the defendant's sentence.

23. The government waives its right to appeal any component of a sentence imposed by the Court which falls within or is greater than the sentencing range for imprisonment, a fine and supervised release set forth in Section III, ¶ 13, above, notwithstanding the manner in which the Court determines the sentence. However, in the event of an appeal from the defendant's sentence by the defendant, the government reserves its right to argue the correctness of the defendant's sentence.

#### **VII. CIVIL ACTION**


24. Defendant waives and agrees not to assert in any civil lawsuit arising from the conduct which gave rise to the criminal charges that are the subject of this plea any defense based on the double jeopardy or excessive fines clauses of the Constitution.

#### **VIII. TOTAL AGREEMENT AND AFFIRMATIONS**

25. This plea agreement represents the total agreement between the defendant, **JASON HIRAM WATSON**, and the government. There are no promises made by anyone other than those contained in

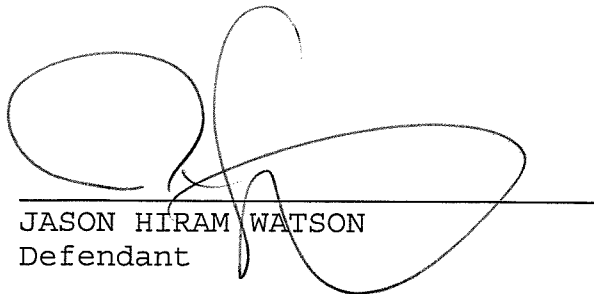
this agreement. This agreement supersedes any other prior agreements, written or oral, entered into between the government and the defendant.

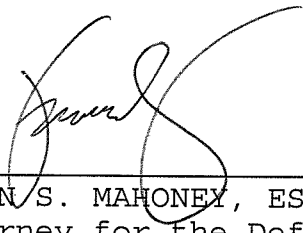
WILLIAM J. HOCHUL, JR.  
United States Attorney  
Western District of New York

BY:   
MICHAEL DIGIACOMO  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Dated: March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

I have read this agreement, which consists of 12 pages. I have had a full opportunity to discuss this agreement with my attorney, KEVIN S. MAHONEY, Esq. I agree that it represents the total agreement reached between myself and the government. No promises or representations have been made to me other than what is contained in this agreement. I understand all of the consequences of my plea of guilty. I fully agree with the contents of this agreement. I am signing this agreement voluntarily and of my own free will.

  
JASON HIRAM WATSON  
Defendant

  
KEVIN S. MAHONEY, ESQ.  
Attorney for the Defendant

Dated: March 30, 2011

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